WILLIAM SANDLIN

Soldier Who is Working for a Better Educated Kentucky

WILLIAM SANDLIN, recently of Co. A., 132nd Infantry, American Expeditionary Forces, is the Kentucky sergeant who four times could have had a commission had he possessed the necessary education. He has come back to his native state and thrown his efforts into the campaign to teach all Kentucky to read and write.

His record while in the war was such as to entitle him to promotion had he been able to read and write. The medals shown on his coat indicate that he had skill in the handling of arms and his record is of the best. Time and again his superior officers recommended him for promotion and each time he ran against the same old stumblingblock —lack of education.

The campaign is a unique one and is progressing favorably.

Teaching All Kentucky to Read and Write

By STILES M. SCRUGGS

Editor of The Daily Independent, Maysville, Ky.

KENTUCKY public school teachers began an intensive campaign on Monday, October 6, to stamp illiteracy from the commonwealth within the next six weeks. The plan of campaign has been so efficiently correlated by the public school officials, the heads of Kentucky University and the several colleges of the state, that the program is entirely feasible.

For years the fight has been waged in this area of the South and Near South, but only within the last few months has it gathered enough momentum to amount to a genuine battle of the hosts of enlightenment against the devil of ignorance and darkness. And strange to say, the incentive to blot ignorance and illiteracy from the entire district of Kentucky was greatly boosted by the war.

STILES M. SCRUGGS

Specifically, Sergeant William Sandlin, a brave mountain boy, came back from France, after participating in the desperate engagements at the Argonne Forest and on the Meuse. He tearfully reported that he was compelled to refuse a commission not once, but four times, when the promotions were ordered by his superiors, because of his lack of sufficient education to read and write the English language—or any other language.

Coming back with this handicap strongly impressed on his mind, the fighter, who had won high honors on the firing line, said he was going to keep on going over the top—at home. So he volunteered to go into all the highways and byways and tell the unfortunate illiterate of the horrors of primary ignorance. The sergeant is now on the stump in Kentucky and declares he will remain there until the curse of illiteracy has been removed from the picturesque hills, glorious mountains and fertile blue grass valleys of Kentucky.

But the leaven of reform was placed in the educational loaf long ago by Cora Wilson Stewart, long a school teacher and superintendent of education in Rowan County, Kentucky. Already her good works are apparent throughout the whole district of the Southland, for the district from the Ohio River to the point of Florida and from Norfolk to the Rio Grande is already engaged in this intensive move to climb out of the murk and gloomy caverns of ignorance and walk in a pathway lighted up by the sun of intelligence and progress. The Country Life Reader, written and compiled as a guide for adults to master the tasks of reading and writing, is a classic. It is so arranged that thousands of men and women have been able to read, write and cipher in from one to six weeks by using it as a textbook.

Possibly it will be of interest to explain that the lessons are arranged on subjects that grip and hold the interest of the adult illiterate even as intently as the first reader holds the primary pupil. For instance in one lesson the illustration is typically characteristic of an ordinary farm scene, with two countrymen passing the home of a neighbor in their two-horse wagon. The reading describes the scene as follows:

"See this wagon! John bought it a year ago. It looks like an old, old wagon. John does not keep it under shelter. I bought my wagon six years ago. It looks as good as new. I keep it under shelter. Keep your wagon under shelter!"

Equally stressful are the other lessons, stressing the importance of the silo, the automobile and the auto truck, the various human and live stock foods and this little textbook has been worth many times its weight in gold. This was the estimate of Governor James D. Black the other day, when he was most cordially pledging himself to work along that line to the limit of his ability. Mr. Edwin P. Morrow, who is opposing Governor Black in his campaign for re-election, is also an ardent advocate of the "Down with Illiteracy" slogan for Kentucky by 1920.

Here is one letter, printed in the Country Life Reader for Adults that has already been copied and sent by thousands to relatives of Kentuckians. In reading it, the university graduate, the college alumnus and even the grammer school finisher, may easily get a thrill—that comes to one when one sees a struggling human suddenly released from a yawning pit or similar predicament. Here is the letter:

"Barren Fork, Ky., Sept. 5, 1915.

"Dear Mother: I have learned to read and write. I am writing you my first letter. This is written in the moonlight school. In this school grown men and women learn to read and write.

"I hope to write you many letters and to read many from your dear hands.

"With much love,

"Your son,

"William Read."

Incidental to the ending of the world conflagration, Kentucky, in common with about all other commonwealths of the nation, has begun many great civic uplift movements, looking to the realization of a State Highway system of permanent roads; a great waterway teeming with traffic the year round by means of approximately 38 lock and dam improvements stretching along the Ohio on its northern boundary; intensive farming and a new impetus of factory improvements—and the redemption of the state from illiteracy. And the greatest of these is the annulment of ignorance.

Happiness Through Helping Others

By EDGAR L. VINCENT

AS I WRITE I have before me a striking letter written by George F. Johnson, of the Endicott-Johnson shoe manufacturing establishment, of Endicott, N. Y. This concern employs 13,000 shoe workers, at the head of which is Mr. Johnson, writer of the letter mentioned, a man who, according to his own statement, has come up from the ranks. These are his words on that subject:

"I have worked at the bench and carried a dinner pail. We didn't have 15-cent hot dinners in my day. A couple of slices of bread, thinly buttered and a hunk of bologna, and once in a while a more or less stale doughnut, washed down with cold water or cold coffee. Now, I know what poverty is and I know what wealth is. I know the game by actual experience."

GEORGE F. JOHNSON

Then comes this remarkable confession, which I quote from an open letter addressed by Mr. Johnson to the men and women in his employ:

"I will tell you who the real millionaire is. It is the man with good health, with a happy home, with a kind and loving wife, with a nice bunch of kiddies, with a clean mind, perhaps a member of some church, it does not matter which, they are all good, with a good trade, a good job, and a decent employer, living in a decent town, with kind neighbors, perhaps in a little home of his own, not too large, but large enough, with a nice fat weekly envelope. This is the only rich man. Don't make any mistake about it. This is correct. 'Success' beyond this brings increased cares, responsibilities and worries. The selfish use of wealth brings nothing but misery, disappointment and suffering. The average man with enough and not too much is the real millionaire."

The writer of this heart to heart letter to his employes has given us a far wiser philosophy than do those who write and speak of the acquirement of wealth as the great summing up of a successful life.

What is Mr. Johnson doing to prove the worth of his statements as to the unselfish use of money? Is it all a beautiful theory? The reply to this must be found in the things the company is doing for the good of those in its employ. Thousands of dollars are given back to the hands in the shape of dividends every month; the health of the employes is safeguarded by a strong force of physicians and surgeons; libraries are maintained for their benefit; playgrounds, parks, swimming pools, and ample provision for enjoyment when out of the factories are provided; rest rooms, laboratories, opportunity to develop musical talent, even a paper for the interchange of views is fostered—in fact, Mr. Johnson says if there is anything more he can do he does not know what it is.

The town where the shops are located is an example of beauty, largely the result of liberal gifts by Mr. Johnson and the members of his family. Certainly the wealth accruing from the business is expended in large measure without selfishness. In all enterprises for the betterment of the town of Endicott, as well as of the nearby city of Binghamton, Mr. Johnson has a large part.

The Office of Public Record, London, in a manuscript dated 1610 published some quaint "Instructions for such things as are to be sent from Virginia." Conservation of forest resources is not wholly a modern idea for the "Instructions" have this to say about the products of the "Pyne Trees." "Pyne trees, or ffire trees are to be wounded within a yarde of the grounde, or boare a hoal with an agar the thirde pte into the tree, and lett yt runne into anye thinge that may receyue the same, and that wch yssues owte wil be Turpentyne worth 18 d. Tonne. When the tree beginneth to runne softelye yt is to be stopped up agayne for preserveinge the tree."—Scientific American.

What Pure Gold Looks Like

"GOLDEN" and "gold colored" are common expressions, and convey definite ideas, and, to most persons, suggest the thought of the color of pure gold. As a matter of fact, that which is "golden" is very little like in color to pure gold, the actual color of which comparatively few persons have ever seen, because gold is always alloyed in the forms in which it is applied to practical uses. Naturally, one would expect to find pure gold richer in color than the alloy, yet purity is not thus shown.

Pure gold is much paler than the alloyed metal, which is mixed with a small proportion of copper or copper and silver to give hardness, and this copper gives a darker color. The pale color of pure gold would doubtless lead many persons to take the real metal for some inferior substance, judging by the appearance alone.

Pure gold is considered as being 24 carats fine; thus, if two, six or ten twenty-fourths of alloy is present, the gold is said to be 22, 18, or 14 carats fine, and so on. The gold used by jewelers is seldom over 18 carats, except in wedding rings, the standard fineness of which is 22 carats. Gold of 18 carats fine is almost invariably used in mounting diamonds, while 14 carat gold is generally used for the manufacture of chains and similar jewelry which is subjected to hard wear. The term "solid gold" is really quite misleading, and is, moreover, meaningless, as it is applied by manufacturers to any article which is made from gold alloy as low in grade as 10 carats. Most of the cheaper seal rings and the like are ten carat.

Coins made from pure gold are quite impracticable. The purest coins ever issued were the fifty-dollar pieces which were once in general use in California, the coinage of which was abandoned because of their great loss of weight by abrasion and because their interior could be easily bored out and the cavity filled with lead. These coins were octagonal in shape, and were the most valuable coins ever minted and circulated in America.

All gold is not alike when refined. Australian gold is distinctly redder than that found in California, and placer gold is more yellow than that taken from quartz. The latter fact is one of the mysteries of metallurgy, because the gold in placers comes from that which is in quartz.